

Message

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ECOS Member Transitions

Former U.S. EPA R8 Administrator McGrath Tapped to Head Montana DEQ



Shaun McGrath

Montana Governor Steve Bullock has named former U.S. EPA Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath as the new Director of the Department of Environmental Quality, effective December 1. He takes over for Tom Livers, who is now the State Budget Director.

McGrath also was a Program Director for the Western Governors' Association and has served as Boulder Mayor on the Boulder City Council. He was Deputy Director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Relations during the first two years of the Obama Administration, acting as a liaison with Governors.

Bullock says McGrath has decades of experience in seeking bipartisan solutions to issues.

[Parisien]

U.S. EPA Senior Advisor Wagner Named Oklahoma Secretary of Energy & Environment



Kenneth (Ken) Wagner

Governor-elect Kevin Stitt announced this week the selection of Kenneth (Ken) Wagner to serve as the next Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, succeeding Michael Teague. Wagner has been active with ECOS in his current role as U.S. EPA Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Regional and State Affairs.

He previously was a Founding Partner and Managing Partner at the Tulsa law firm Latham, Wagner, Steele & Lehman, PC.

Oklahoma has dual participation in ECOS, with both the Secretary of Energy and Environment and Executive Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (Scott Thompson) serving as members. [Parisien]

U.S. EPA Transitions

Top U.S. EPA Officials Are on the Move

November has seen a flurry of activity for U.S. EPA officials, including a key confirmation hearing, nomination, retirement, and resignations

Dunn Confirmation Hearing



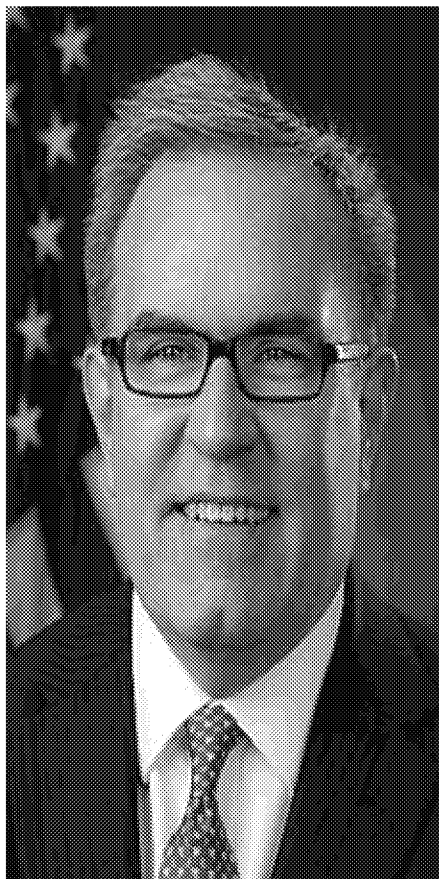
Alexandra Dunn at the confirmation hearing.

On November 29, former ECOS Executive Director & General Counsel Alexandra Dunn testified before the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee on her nomination as U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. Dunn, who now serves as U.S. EPA Region 1 Administrator, received praise from Senators on both sides of the aisle for her record of leadership and consensus-building.

In her new role, she would oversee a number of issues of importance to the states, including implementation of the reauthorized Toxics Substances Control Act and policymaking on polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

For more on Dunn's testimony, click [here](#). [Parisien]

Wheeler Nomination



Andrew Wheeler

President Donald Trump has announced that he will nominate U.S. EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler to lead the agency on a permanent basis. Observers predict that Wheeler's confirmation will be eased by the midterm election results in which Republicans expanded their majority in the Senate.

Wheeler was confirmed as EPA's Deputy Administrator in April. [Parisien]

Grevatt Retirement

Peter Grevatt, U.S. EPA's top official overseeing cross-agency policy on high-profile chemicals, is retiring from the agency after 30 years. Currently Director of the agency's Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, Grevatt has worked closely with ECOS in his role leading EPA's policy efforts on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). [Parisien]

Glenn Resignation, Walker Acting Role

Trey Glenn, Administrator for U.S. EPA Region 4, resigned November 18 following an indictment in Alabama on state ethics charges.

Mary Walker, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 4, has stepped in as Acting Administrator. ECOS members will recall that Walker previously served as the Assistant Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. [Parisien]



State News You Can Use

[Colorado Adopts California LEV Standards](#)

[New Jersey Enhances Disaster Response through Cross-Agency Resilience Plan](#)

[Nevada Partners in Recycled Art Contest](#)

Funding

Senate Nears Passage of FY19 EPA Appropriations Bill, CR Expires December 7

A U.S. EPA Appropriations bill for fiscal year (FY) 2019 is nearly complete, with Senate leaders from both parties indicating that they have resolved their differences over funding issues. However, budget negotiations in other areas of the government, including border wall funding, still pose a risk of a partial government shutdown upon the expiration of temporary funding on December 7.

With the Democrats set to take control of the House in January, Republican leaders including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) have said that funding the remaining government agencies for FY19 is among their top priorities. [McAleer]

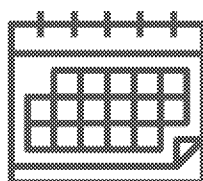
U.S. EPA News

U.S. EPA Adopts Updated Information Collection Request Process to Reduce Burden

On November 21, U.S. EPA's Office of Water and Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance issued separate memoranda clarifying the processes each office will use for collecting information from the regulated community. One covers Clean Water Act Section 308 letters, and the other focuses on best practices for compliance and enforcement activities including Section 114 of the Clean Air Act and Section 3007 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as well as Section 308 of the Clean Water Act. EPA

hopes the memos will reduce burden and clarify for the regulated community how the agency will engage.

Some states have responded initially that these efforts will lead to improved consistency in information requests across the country. They recognize the need for collaboration between EPA and states prior to sending 114 or 308 letters, as many times the state may have the desired information. [Graves]



Upcoming Events

U.S. EPA on National Compliance Initiatives

U.S. EPA will hold a call on **December 3 at 2-3 p.m.** to discuss the selection of the National Compliance Initiatives for the next cycle, fiscal years 2020-2023. To join the call, please call (855) 564-1700 extension 1107465 and enter participant code 234567. [Swanson]

E-Enterprise & Massachusetts on Permitting

On **December 6 at 12:30-2 p.m. Eastern**, E-Enterprise will host a permitting webinar to spotlight work of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on its state electronic permitting system development and deployment. The work involves deploying a scalable e-permitting platform for MassDEP, the Department of Agricultural Resources, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation using standard components and workflows.

To register for the webinar, click here [here](#). For more information, please contact Beth

Graves [Beth Graves](#) of ECOS and [Sarah Abramowitz](#) of Ross Strategic. See more on the ePermitting ePLACE portal [here](#), and on the Information Data portal [here](#). [Graves]

U.S. EPA on National Water Program Guidance

U.S. EPA's Office of Water will hold a call with states and state associations on **December 10 at 1-2 p.m. Eastern** to discuss measures that serve as the basis for the FY and FY 2020-2021 National Water Program Guidance.

To participate, please call (202) 991-0477 and enter conference ID 2021895. If you have questions, please contact [Christopher Gollan](#) of U.S. EPA's Office of Water. [Piper]

ECOS & U.S. EPA on Compliance Research for Effective Government

Next up in ECOS and U.S. EPA's webinar series *Compliance Research for Effective Government* is a look at the New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Generator Training Program on **December 11 at 1-2 p.m. Eastern**. The webinar will feature Tim Prospert of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and Dr. Sarah Strafford of the College of William and Mary.

Register for the webinar [here](#). For more information, please contact Sonia Altieri of ECOS. [Altieri]

ITRC on PFAS

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) invites you to participate in its PFAS training in Grand Rapids, Michigan on **December 13**. This eight-hour training will focus on PFAS regulations, site characterization, sampling and analysis, AFFF, treatment technologies, and risk communication. The training is FREE for state and federal regulators, and travel scholarships are available for participants traveling 50 miles or more.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA on Methane Mitigation

U.S. EPA's Natural Gas STAR and Methane Challenge Programs invite states to participate in the *Data-Driven Decision Making for Cost-Effective Methane Emission Mitigation* Workshop on **December 14**. ECOS has partnered with these U.S. EPA programs on methane reduction through the Shale Gas Caucus.

The workshop, to be held at Pacific Gas and Electric's facility in downtown San Francisco, will focus on the use of data and analytics in the oil and natural gas industry to drive operational changes to mitigate methane emissions. The workshop is free, but registration is required. Learn more and register [here](#). [Parisien]

U.S. EPA on ORD Technical Support Centers

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will host its monthly Tools and Resources webinar on **December 17 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** to discuss its Technical Support Centers, which provide technical assistance to EPA regional and program offices for contaminated site cleanup.

To learn more about the centers and how to access their support, register for the webinar [here](#). [Longsworth]

U.S. EPA on Disaster Recovery Response Tool

U.S. EPA will host a webinar on **December 18 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. Eastern** to highlight EPA Region 5's innovative [Disaster Debris Recovery Tool](#). The tool promotes effective recovery, recycling, and disposal of disaster debris for federal, state, tribal, and local emergency planners and responders. Through the E-Enterprise initiative, the tool will expand in 2019 to 35 states and be accessible through the [E-Enterprise Portal](#).

Register for the webinar [here](#). [Parisien]

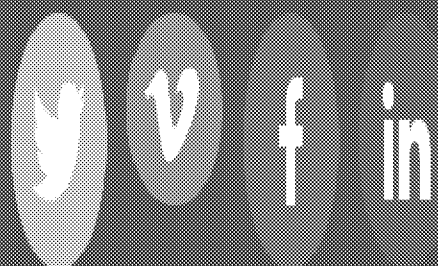
U.S. EPA on ECHO

States are invited to join U.S. EPA for its next Intro to ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) webinar on **December 18**. This webinar is one in a series that provides basic demonstrations of searching and navigating the website. Participants will learn how to use ECHO in your communities and workplaces to identify facility history with compliance and enforcement. Note that this webinar is repeated every six months.

Registration will open soon [here](#).

The subsequent ECHO Webinar will be held in March 2019, with details posted on the ECHO training page in early 2019. Topics for future webinars will be selected based on [user feedback](#), and every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a new tool.

For more information, contact [Rebecca Kane](#) of EPA. [Piper]



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Environmental Council of the States
50 F St NW Ste 350
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